B. Union Territories with Legislature:—

(a) *Pondicherry:—*

The levy of terminal tax has been abolished and the UT Administration is compensating the local bodies adequately. While assessing the gap in the resources of UT for the purpose of Central assistance, the compensation paid to the local bodies is taken into account.

(b) *National Capital Territory of Delhi:—*

The levy of terminal tax has been abolished and the local bodies are being suitably compensated (by Government of NCT of Delhi).

Proposal to introduce tele-medicine service in Government Hospitals in Metropolitan cities

375. DR. Y. LASKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY .VELFAE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce tele-medicine service in Government
Hospitals in Metropolitan cities on the pattern of Aashlok Hospital tied up with International Network of Medical Communications of New York;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) Question does not arise,

(c) The proposal received was not found to be cost effective for catering to the needs of the general public in rural areas and weaker sections of society.

Infighting of AIR staff at Nagpur

*376. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infighting of the senior staff of the All India Radio, Nagpur has seriously and adversely affected the functioning of the radio station at Nagpur;

(b) by when will the situation improve and people get proper programmes;

(c) what factors are responsible for the dismal performance of the Nagpur station; and

(d) what steps will be taken to see that the functioning of the radio station improves?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The Government are aware of occasional coverage in the local press about the alleged mal-functioning of AIR, Nagpur due to differences between some senior officers at the station. There was also a demand for the transfer of the Superintending Engineer of the station on account of his long stay at Nagpur. The Superintending Engineer has since been transferred and the other concerned officer has been cautioned to be careful in future. There has not, however, been any adverse effect on the performance/functioning of the AIR Station on this account.

Revision of Anti-Defection Law

*377. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering revision of Anti-defection Law contained in Tenth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether all the parties have agreed for this purpose; and

(c) if so, when Government propose to introduce the legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The proposal regarding amendment to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution is one of the several proposal which are shortly to be discussed by Government with the leaders of the political parties. Depending upon the consensus reached amongst political parties, Government would consider making suitable amendment to the Tenth Schedule.